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TO

Enable County Councils in Ireland to acquire and improve and sell or let waste land; and for other purposes. A.D. 1908.

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Waste Lands (Ireland) Improvement Act, 1908. Short title.

2.—(1) Where in any county there is waste land which, in the opinion of the council of such county, is capable of reclamation, improvement, and adaptation for agricultural purposes and afforestation at a reasonable expenditure, the council may, compulsorily or by agreement, subject to the provisions of this Act, acquire such land. Power to county council to acquire waste land.

(2) The expression "waste land" for the purposes of this Act shall mean land acquired by a council under the powers and for the purposes of this Act, and which is either not rated at all or of an annual value for the purposes of the poor law not exceeding *one shilling and sixpence* per acre.

3.—(1) For the purpose of the purchase of waste land under this Act by a county council the Lands Clauses Acts shall be incorporated with this Act. Purchase and improvement of waste land.

(2) The county council may adapt any waste land acquired under this Act for agricultural purposes by reclaiming, draining, dividing, and fencing it, making occupation roads, and executing any other works, including works for the provision of a water

[Bill 45.]

A.D. 1898. supply which in the opinion of the council are requisite and necessary.

(3) The county council may also, if they think fit, as part of an agreement for the sale or letting of reclaimed land or any part or parts thereof, erect thereon such buildings or make such adaptation of existing buildings as in their opinion are required for the due occupation of such land and which cannot be made by the purchaser or tenant.

(4) The expression "reclaimed land" shall for the purposes of this Act mean waste land adapted by the council for agricultural purposes or any part or parts thereof.

Sale or letting of reclaimed land.

4.—(1) The county council shall offer the reclaimed land for sale in accordance with rules under this Act.

(2) Where the county council are of opinion that any persons desirous of cultivating reclaimed land are unable to buy such land on the terms fixed by the said rules the council may instead of offering the same for sale offer to let such land in accordance with the said rules.

(3) The county council shall have power to sell or to let reclaimed land to a number of persons working on a co-operative system provided such system be approved by the county council.

Rules.

5. The Local Government Board for Ireland shall, at the request of any county council intending to acquire waste land under this Act, make, and may from time to time vary and alter, rules for carrying into effect this Act, and in particular rules as to the sale and letting by the council of reclaimed land and the terms and conditions on which such land may be sold or let, and such rules shall have effect as if they had been enacted in this Act.

Borrowing powers.

6. A county council may borrow for the purposes of this Act as if those purposes were purposes for which they are authorised to borrow under the Order in Council under section one hundred and four of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898.



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